



Weather and Crop Progress

2000 Nebraska Summary

January

Temperatures in the Panhandle averaged slightly above normal while the remainder of the state averaged one to three degrees below normal for the last week of January. Dry conditions prevailed across the state. Moisture was a major concern and will be for the next few months.

February

Temperatures across the State average about five degrees above normal during the first three weeks with the fourth week ten to eighteen degrees above normal. Moisture received during the latter half of the month improved the wheat outlook; however, additional moisture is needed.

March

Temperatures averaged above normal across the State for the entire month, ranging from two to fifteen degrees above normal. Moisture received was general, but light, over the State, averaging just over one inch. Dry conditions prevail.

April

Temperatures were generally near normal to a few degrees above normal for the month. Welcome precipitation was received in the latter half of the month in the Panhandle with the remainder of the State still below normal for the year.

May

Temperatures ranged from near normal to as much as eleven degrees above normal for the month. Precipitation in the North and West helped push yearly totals closer to normal; however, the Southern half of the State was closer to fifty to sixty percent of normal for the year.

June

Temperatures began the month above normal but were three to eight degrees below normal by the end of the month. Moisture by month's end halted declining crop conditions. Precipitation levels in the Southwest continued to be well below normal.

July

Temperatures varied from two to seven degrees above normal during the first half of July with below normal temperatures recorded during the last two weeks. Timely rains provided needed moisture to keep crops progressing throughout much of the State.

August

Temperatures varied from two to seven degrees above normal during August. Precipitation was light and scattered across the State with the hot and dry conditions stressing dryland crops. Crops were quickly moving towards maturity.

September

Temperatures ranged from near normal to ten degrees above normal during much of September with cooler temperatures by month's end. Light precipitation across the State and the quickly maturing crops allowed harvest to jump well ahead of the normal pace.

October

Temperatures during the first half of October were one to ten degrees below normal with the last half of the month ranging from three to eleven degrees above normal. Precipitation was light although rain received at month's end helped subsoil and wheat conditions.

November

Temperatures began above normal but ranged from nine to fifteen degrees below normal by mid-month. Welcome moisture in the form of rain and snow helped improve soil conditions with at least fifty percent of the State now showing at least adequate supplies.

December

Temperatures were near normal in the western third of the State with the remainder seven to ten degrees below normal during the last week of December. Snow cover spurred on the use of supplemental hay feeding which created concerns about the dwindling hay supplies.

Usual Planting and Harvesting Dates Major Crops, Nebraska

Crop	Usual Planting Dates			Usual Harvesting Dates		
	Begin	Most Active	End	Begin	Most Active	End
Barley, Spring	Mar 20	Mar 25 - Apr 10	Apr 18	Jul 18	Jul 20 - Jul 25	Jul 30
Beans, Dry	May 26	Jun 9 - Jun 16	Jun 23	Sep 8	Sep 15 - Sep 29	Oct 13
Corn, for Grain	Apr 21	May 3 - May 19	Jun 1	Sep 21	Oct 11 - Nov 6	Dec 1
Corn, for Silage	Apr 21	May 3 - May 19	Jun 1	Aug 25	Sep 5 - Sep 25	Oct 10
Hay, Alfalfa				May 10		Oct 5
Hay, Other				Jun 5		Sep 20
Oats, Spring	Mar 24	Apr 2 - Apr 27	May 9	Jul 4	Jul 15 - Aug 2	Aug 12
Rye	Aug 30	Sep 12 - Sep 26	Oct 6	Jun 30	Jul 12 - Jul 30	Aug 8
Sorghum, for Grain	May 11	May 20 - Jun 8	Jun 19	Sep 19	Oct 8 - Oct 30	Nov 17
Sorghum, for Silage	May 11	May 20 - Jun 8	Jun 19	Aug 25	Sep 10 - Sep 30	Oct 10
Soybeans	May 9	May 18 - Jun 4	Jun 17	Sep 19	Sep 30 - Oct 15	Oct 27
Sugarbeets	Apr 1	Apr 10 - Apr 30	May 5	Oct 5	Oct 10 - Oct 30	Nov 5
Wheat, Winter	Aug 30	Sep 12 - Sep 26	Oct 6	Jun 26	Jul 7 - Jul 26	Aug 8

SOURCE: USDA's Usual Planting and Harvesting Dates for U.S. Field Crops, December 1997.